

MERCATOR:

OR,

Commerce Retrieved,

BEING

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British Trade*, &c.From **Saturday**, December 26. to **Tuesday**, December 29. 1713.*Another Letter to the Mercator, detecting the Methods taken to vindicate the Old Scheme, and proving from their own Proposition that it was a Falshood.*

To the Mercator.

IF your Opposers did not, contrary to all Justice, Equity, good Sense or Modesty, challenge to be Judges in their own case, and make themselves Judge and Jury too, they would now stand Condemned, and have nothing to say for themselves why Sentence should not be pass'd upon them according to Law.

Nay if they had not, as you well observ'd of them, resolv'd never to Blush, and to Grant nothing, they would blush now, and acknowledge themselves in the Wrong.

But their own Words shall Condemn them, *Ex ore tuo*, &c. They shall be made Evidence against themselves whether they will or no.

I have Confronted the Commissioners of the Custom-house who are our Evidence against the Old Scheme, with what they pretend the Inspector-General says in its Favour.

It appears the Inspector-General speaking of an old Manuscript in the Custom-house, says, *All the Light he could gain in the case of our Exports and Imports of that time, was from that Manuscript, unless he would have extracted an Account from the old voluminous Books of Entries, which required too much time*; adding, that he believes this was a fair Account taken from those Entries, the Reason also of which Belief he owns to be chiefly because it had been given in to the Parliament.

Again, the Doctor himself challenges this very Manuscript with Unfairness in one thing at the same time that he is willing to believe it may be a fair Extract in another. His Words are these: *As to the Quantity of Goods contained in this Account, I believe they may have been fairly extracted from the old Entry-Books of the Custom-house; but as to the Valuation set upon them, I have much Reason to suspect the Truth thereof.* Vide Report, &c. p. 12.

Observe then, how these Men pervert the Doctor in his Meaning: They bring this dubious Expression **I BELIEVE THEY MAY**, for a positive Affirmation upon Oath to the said Manuscript being fairly Extracted; and this they would set up against the Commissioners positive Account, tho' the Doctor owns that he had not taken any Extract from the old Entries, and the Commissioners affirm they have, and refer to the Entries themselves for Proof.

Upon the whole laid down thus plain, their own Words shall be Evidence against them, taken from one of their scandalous scurrilous Papers, which I shall not foul your Paper so much as to name, dated December 15. Thus in *MERCATOR*, Numb. 11. *a Custom-house Account is raised against it (Scheme) by which our Woollen Manufactures Exported from London to France between Michaelmas 1668 and 1669, which by the Old Scheme are valued at no more than 61546 l. are so multiplied that they must amount to 93396 l. 5 s. 6 d. And (mark these Words) if this Custom-house Account is true, then without Dispute the Makers of the OLD SCHEME were Mistaken.*

This is a great favour to obtain from such a Sett of Men, (viz.) *That the Makers were Mistaken!* What is this to signify? Truly we must take him in his own Style where he Treats those who he calls Authors of your Paper, when but the word Woollen Stuffs was omitted, he says it was *Villainous*; but when a SCHEME is paum'd upon the Nation, Merchants drawn in, and, as is to be feared, from a vile Principle of private Gain, to espouse and set their Hands to it, a whole Parliament and Nation Cheated by it and Imposed upon; when this is detected, all you can obtain of them is, *The Makers were Mistaken*: No, no, the Makers were not Mistaken, for the Design this Forgery was made to serve was carried on by it, and the Cheat was put upon the Nation openly and barefacedly. Is this to be only *Mistaken!* It puts me in mind of a Story which is told of an Italian at Naples, who coming behind a Gentleman as he was making Water, stab'd him with a Dagger, but finding it was the wrong Man, Lord, Sir! says the Russian, I beg you Ten thousand Pardons, I AM MISTAKEN, you are not the Man!

Just such a Mistake this is: The Nation has been Cheated with it 40 Years ago, the Parliament drawn in, I say drawn in; for it is no Treason to say a Parliament may be Imposed upon, and Drawn in; they were drawn into a Prohibition-Act, and to draw the Preamble to it from the Supposition of this fraudulent abominable SCHEME; and since that time these Men have endeavoured to put the like Cheat upon the Nation again, and that with the same scandalous Implements; and now they are detected, now they come and say, *The Makers were Mistaken.* Very pretty indeed! Mistaken in Running a Man through the



354

the Body! Mistaken in Bubbling a whole Nation! In plain English, in Mr. *Henry Martin's* English this would be Villany, glaring Impudence! unparalleled Forgery, had it been the *MERCATOR*! But in their Clubs of experienc'd Merchants, it is no more than being Mistaken. Methinks Mr. *Martin* should blush at this, though he could not blush at the notorious Frauds of his Southwark Election! Though he acted the rankest Partiality possible in his managing the Poll there, yet he might have been thought capable to hesitate at such an Attempt as this: But when Men are once dipt in Crime, they must stick at nothing; and he that lifts in the Service of this Club, must resolve upon all the Party-Drudgery they put him upon.

But to return to the Quotation, out of their own Papers they have put it upon a right Foot, I desire no better, and let the Merit of all they have said or shall say be put upon the Question, I repeat their Words, *If the Custom-house Accounts is true, then no doubt the Makers of the Old Scheme were (Rogues) mistaken.* A match then Brother *HARRY*, quoth the Devil to the Mealman, put it upon a fair Trial, and joining Issue, I say, if the Custom-house Account is not true, then the Commissioners are mistaken.

How shall this be tryed? Why truly the Commissioners have put in the fairest way in the World, such a way as it is impossible should be mistaken, and beyond an Account upon Oath, even if that had been given in, because Demonstration is beyond Argument; and this is exprest in their Certificates mentioned in my last Letter in these Words: THEY, (i. e. the Commissioners have) COMPARED the said Account (i. e. the Scheme) with the Exports of the Woollen Manufacture in the Custom-house Books. There's a Reference for Proof, which Reference cannot be suspected of Falshood, because the Custom-house Books are to be seen to detect it, if false: But my Friend *HARRY* may ask, *How should the Lords know whether it were right or no, unless Extracts of those Books were laid before Them to Confront Them with?* Mark the next Words, for that *EXTRACTS* whereof are now lying before your Lordships: What is the English of this but to this purpose, (viz.) Your Lordships may know whether we have given a true Account, having Extracts of the Books before you to try them by.

Can any Man but *Harry Martin*, now have the Face to Question the Commissioners Accounts being true: Besides, who are these Commissioners, and what is become of them? Are they not Men who besides the Honour of their Characters, and the Reputation of their private Capacities, are Men who may be liable to the Censure of Imposing upon the Parliament? If they had done so, are they not in Being, are they not ready to Answer it, and to justify their Account? What! Does Mr. *Martin* think they will fly from Parliament Justice as he did, and can they sell their Places as he did? For shame, fye Friend *Martin*, fye, fye, do not Expose your self at this rate; learn to Blush now you are a private Attorney, whatever you did when you were a Bailiff of the Borough.

In a word, The Account given in by the Commissioners of the Customs is a right, fair, true Ac-

count; the Commissioners are ready to justify it, and the Custom-house Books are referred to to prove it.

The Consequence then is my Friend *Harry's* own, as above, (viz.) *That no doubt the Makers of the OLD SCHEME were MISTAKEN.*

Nor will all this weaken or reflect upon Dr. *Davenant's* Account; all which amounts to no more than this, That he thought or believed the Manuscript which he mentions had been a fair Account, but never once said that he knew it to be so, but openly professes that he had not examined the Books of the Custom-house, as being too Voluminous for the short time he had to make his Report in.

Let the World judge now, whether I have not made good what I promised, and whether Honest Men have not Reason to be asham'd of these People; let them judge, whether they must not have some very black Design to carry on who can stoop to such black Methods for carrying it on, and who can stand in the justification of such a foul Forgery as this of pauming a Cheat of 40 Years standing upon the Nation.

Your Humble Servant, B.

The *MERCATOR* desires the Reader to observe the following Entry of One Days Trade to France, and the next will be such another, besides all the Clandestine Exportations to the Streights and to Holland, which, as has been Noted, cannot be certainly known.

From the CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Exported to France in One Day,
December 22.

20 Broad-Cloths
* 10 doz. Hats
1300 Goads Cotton
1960 yards Flannel
40 Firkins Butter
14 C. Cheese
10000 Lanthorn Leaves
20 Ton 2 C. Logwood
700 Fans
500 Quarter Oats
450 Quarter Barley, at 21 s. per Quarter
155473 l. Virginia Tobacco
* 16312 l. Ditto Tobacco

ADVERTISEMENT.

Memoirs of Count Tariff, &c. By which the whole Secret History of the Refusing the late Treaty of Commerce is laid open, and the Grounds and Reasons of the Whigs Opposing it, are plainly discovered. Sold by John Morphew, near Stationers-Hall. Price 1 s.

LONDON: Printed for BENJ. TOOKE, at the Temple-Gate; and JOHN BARBER, on Lambeth-Hill. (Price 3 Half-pence.)

